

WASHINGTON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

June 16, 2016

LOTT WET Science Center
500 Adams St NE, Olympia, WA, 98501

Washington Invasive Species Council Members Present:

Bill Tweit, Chair	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Ray Willard, Vice Chair	Washington Department of Transportation
Shaun Seaman	Chelan Public Utility District, WISC Industry Advisory Panel Representative
Lizbeth Seebacher	Washington Department of Ecology
John Gamon	Washington Department of Natural Resources
Jim Marra	Washington State Department of Agriculture
Rob Fimbel	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
Pat Stevenson	Stillaguamish Tribe
Joe Maroney	Kalispel Tribe
Marc Daily	Puget Sound Partnership
Anna Lyon	Okanogan County
Vicki Yund	U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Shawna Bautista	U.S. Forest Service
Carrie Cook-Tabor	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Lt. Eric Young	U.S. Coast Guard
Alison Halpern	Noxious Weed Control Board
Steven Burke	King County Noxious Weed Program
Sasha Shaw	King County Noxious Weed Program

Guests and Presenters:

Emily Grason	University of Washington Sea Grant
Emily Stevenson	Columbia Gorge Cooperative Weed Management Area, and Skamania County Noxious Weed Control Program
Cathy Lucero	Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board
Nathan Lubliner	Washington Department of Ecology

Recreation and Conservation Office Staff:

Justin Bush	Executive Coordinator
Wendy Loosle	Board Liaison

Welcome and Call to Order

Bill Tweit, Chair, opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. with welcome and announcements. Kelsey Browne from the WET Center provided facility logistics, safety information, and a brief summary of the Center's operations.

Hot Topic Reports

Item 1: Executive Coordinator's Introduction and Report / Justin Bush

Justin Bush introduced himself as the new Executive Coordinator, providing a brief summary of his personal and professional background. Mr. Bush updated the council members on recent meetings with partners, upcoming events and tours, education and outreach efforts, and sighting reports. Highlights in communication outreach include a twenty percent increase in social media use (Facebook) and upcoming outreach events with the Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy.

Mr. Bush continues to improve the sighting response system with timestamps, photos, and improved tracking, documenting, and monitoring efforts. Further technological updates include the upcoming decommissioning of the server that hosts the WA Invasives mobile application (app) data; Mr. Bush is currently seeking alternative options for hosting the app since the server will sunset at the end of the year. Also, the hotline phone number (1-877-9-INFEST) was removed and Mr. Bush requested that all references to the hotline be removed from outreach materials.

Mr. Bush provided updates on the National Park Service Challenge Cost-Share, the Recreation and Conservation Office budget proposals for the 2017-19 biennium, and the No Child Left Inside grant which was not funded.

Mr. Bush clarified that the iNaturalist is a separate mobile application that hosts data on a distinct server; however, the functionality is similar. Mr. Maroney shared that the app is gaining momentum, and there may be opportunities to sync it with the WA Invasives App.

In response to questions about outreach, Mr. Bush welcomed ideas for citizen science participation, increased support for sighting report validation, and creation of a one-pager to support communication updates across partners.

Item 2: Legislative Updates / Round Table

Mr. Bush provided several legislative updates, including news of two new Washington/Oregon State representatives on the National Invasive Species Council Advisory Committee: Blaine Parker, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, and Dr. Richard Mack, WSU in Pullman. Chair Tweit encouraged sending letters to each representative for their service and to establish communication with the national committee.

Mr. Bush updated the council on several pieces of legislation. H.R. 5334, Stamp on Invasive Species Act; H.R. 754 which intends to combat national invasive species issues; and HHR 1485/s 2240 which requires net reduction in invasive species on federal lands, prioritization of control options, and work with local entities for implementation.

Alan Pleus, WDFW, provided an update on the Vessel Incident Discharge Act (VIDA), regulation intended for commercial and recreational vessels. Mr. Pleus is monitoring this legislation with regards to invasive species, potential for local regulation and control, and impacts to state resources. Tribal entities in Washington have expressed concern, along with WDFW. Mr. Young explained that the purpose behind

the legislation is meant to address inconsistency in ballast water regulation and operations; he doesn't anticipate this creating more work for the US Coast Guard, but some effort to maintain alignment of policies and standards may be necessary. Chair Tweit added that the ultimate goal is to collaborate with industry to maintain standards while upholding state authority and protection protocols. Marc Daly offered support from PSP as needed.

Item 3: University of Washington Green Crab Research / Emily Grason

Emily Grason, University of Washington Sea Grant, presented information about citizen science participation in early detection of invasive European green crab along Washington's inland shores. The population of green crab is expected to increase, particularly in the Salish Sea area. Ms. Grason provided a summary of the current threat of invasion, the species' habitat needs, and potential areas of invasive establishment. She outlined the structure, goals, and protocols of the Citizen Research Assisting Biologists, a program geared towards prevention of species' establishment. Volunteers may have prior experience, however all undergo training before assignment to sites based on potential invasion threat across the Puget Sound. The CRAB team conducted a pilot of the program and a follow-up assessment to inform potential updates for the re-launch this past March. Analysis of the data collected to date demonstrates that the intensity of monitoring is expected to improve with the increased volunteer efforts. Ms. Grason concluded by sharing information about future work on the invasive Asian mud snail (*Batillaria*) density, continued program evaluation, pursuing funding for monitoring in 2016, and supplemental work in bait efficacy and Spartina control.

Ms. Grason explained that the main control mechanism is trapping; although this is labor intensive and the threat of re-infestation still persists. Additionally, she described the differences in the types of habitat that the species prefers in the PNW versus other infestation sites globally. She responded to questions about anticipating changes in spread and monitoring due to climate change impacts.

Chair Tweit requested that Ms. Grason provide updates ongoing to the council.

Item 4: Columbia Gorge Invasive Species Project / Emily Stevenson

Emily Stevenson, Washington Co-chair of the Columbia Gorge – Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) and Program Coordinator for the Skamania County Noxious Weed Control Program, provided an overview of the CWMA program which facilitates coordination of invasive species management among public and private land owners. She summarized the current work CWMA which includes projects such as invasive weed surveys, installation of boot brushes as trail heads, field guide development, public education workshops, and project site tours. The CWMA recently was awarded Fiscal Year 2016 Farm Bill funding, in partnership with the council and the Washington State University Extension. The cooperative agreement will fund development of best management practices for target species, curriculum development, training, and distribution of educational materials and tools. In response to council questions, Ms. Stevenson shared resources for learning more about boot brushes, installation and maintenance needs, and the potential for studying public use and impacts to invasive species management.

Break 10:30 - 10:40 a.m.

Discussions, Decisions, and Updates

Item 5: AIS Funding Advisory Committee Update / Bill Tweit

Chair Tweit informed the council members that the complete version of the AIS Funding Advisory Committee plan is included in the meeting materials. Preparations for 2017-19 budget legislation are underway.

Item 6: Clallam County Integrated Roadside Weed Management Plan / Cathy Lucero

Cathy Lucero presented information about integrated weed management in Clallam County. She began by introducing issues around honeybee habitat and pollination services. She described concerns regarding the populations of native pollinators and the need for pollinator-friendly habitats throughout the growing season. Studies of habitat challenges demonstrate that roadside areas for pollinators serve as critical connections for species that mitigate elimination by high-speed vehicles. Ms. Lucero discussed the potential for roadside areas to additionally support noxious weed control. In Clallam County in particular, where spraying of any kind is not permitted, alternative management strategies are becoming more prevalent. A 2015 survey of 250 miles and 16 high-priority species highlighted that the current management strategy – mowing – is not effective. As a result, an integrated roadside vegetation management plan and proposed ordinance has been introduced to ensure responsible weed management through all effective methods available (adding herbicide, prevention measures, and cultural strategies) and to incorporate public involvement. The proposed management plan includes an annual work plan, reviewed by the Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board, and land owner agreements for noxious weed control. She concluded by sharing the future goals of the work plan, public engagement and transparency, and research in the use of best management practices. More information about Clallam County noxious weed control can be found at: <http://www.clallam.net/weed/>.

Ms. Lucero shared that she hopes WISC will add themselves as a reviewer of the work plan, previously reviewed and vetted by 39 other partners. The county will continue to hold public workshops to build awareness and gather input for improvement of the management plan.

Mr. Willard made a motion that the council should formally support the Clallam County Integrated Roadside Weed Management Plan. Vicki Yund seconded. Ms. Bautista expressed her agreement. Mr. Daly abstained. Chair Tweit suggested that council members take time to review the plan within the next two weeks and register objections with Mr. Bush. Should no objections be raised, the motion will carry. The revised motion (to postpone official approval until time for review has passed) was carried.

Item 7: Regional Don't Let It Loose Campaign / Justin Bush

Mr. Bush informed the council the campaign continues to be on track with the established timeline. The plan builds off of resources established by the State of Montana to incorporate an online presence. After further funding is secured through the Farm Bill, Mr. Bush will coordinate with the states of Oregon and Idaho to continue regional public outreach. An RCO issued press release was sent to schools and classrooms as part of a public awareness initiative, which was well-received by the education community. Mr. Bush requested council participation on the WISC social media platforms and for contact information of respective organizations' communications staff.

Item 8: Economic Analysis of the Impact of Invasive Species in Washington / Alison Halpern

Alison Halpern shared that the anticipated completion date for the economic analysis has been postponed due to needed refinement of the report outcomes. The re-focused goal of the report will support gathering information about target species, impacts to Washington State, and the importance of

control and prevention. To support funding the report, Ms. Halpern will be sending invoices to participating agencies as part of a memorandum of understanding that outlines deliverables and roles.

Item 9: Aquatic Invasive Species General Management Permit Renewal / Nathan Lubliner

Nathan Lubliner, Department of Ecology, provided information about the Aquatic Invasive Species Management General Permit, currently being revised as per the five-year cycle for renewal. The permit covers the in-water treatment of aquatic invasive animal species and nonnative invasive marine algae and allows for the treatment of early infestations and for small localized projects that may lead to the eradication or containment of invasive species. Mr. Lubliner summarized the changes and updates to language in the permitting requirements and criteria, and shared the dates of the now open public comment period: May 18, 2016 through July 1, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. Further information is available at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/pesticides/invasive.html>. Should council members wish to provide comment, Mr. Lubliner requested that the specific section of the draft permit be cited.

Mr. Pleus explained that, as the only current permittee, WDFW needed the authority to apply chemical protocols for invasive species management in aquatic systems. The permit was designed to meet WDFW needs, but other agencies that respond to aquatic invasive animal species and nonnative invasive marine algae are eligible to apply. Additionally, experimental use permits are available through the Department of Agriculture or the Environmental Protection Agency; the data for labelling would be shared with Ecology.

Chair Tweit and Mr. Willard suggested submitting a comment on behalf of the council supporting the permit, and encouraging Ecology to use the process to communicate information online and continue to update every five years. Marc Daly moved to support the council chair submitting a letter on the council's behalf stating the permit's importance for meeting their strategic plan goals. Pat Stevenson seconded. Motion carried.

Item 10: Top 50 Species Prioritization Process / Justin Bush

Mr. Bush summarized the steps taken at the previous meeting and the process to update the Top 50 Species ranking list. Chair Tweit requested that council members identify whether they are willing to volunteer their participation in the revision process. Carrie Cook-Tabor volunteered, along with other members from her organization, to support with invasive animal species information and ranking. Mr. Bush will reach out to members not present today for interest in participating. The timeline will be revisited at the next council meeting.

The council discussed the prioritization process of species, rationale for grouping species, and limiting the list to fifty species. The current list will be divided amongst three sub-committees for re-evaluation. Suggestions for prioritization of species amongst groups included consideration of new species to be added, diseases carried by invasive species, focusing on education and outreach potential, and including a sub-category for species that can be prevented and need further monitoring.

Item 11: Council Business / Justin Bush

Strategic Plan Update: Mr. Bush began with a summary of the council's Strategic Plan, recently updated in 2015. In review of the plan's goals and actions, rankings were assigned to gauge progress on Tier 1, 2, and 3 objectives. The progress dashboard for each tier confirmed that the council is on track with meeting these actionable items. Ms. Cook-Tabor suggested re-invigorating the use of sub-committees to support outreach, identifying the priorities for outreach, and sharing resources for outreach events. Ms. Bautista echoed these outreach goals, and shared that the Oregon Invasive Species Council is interested in producing regionally-coordinated outreach materials and a joint booth/table at events.

New Membership: The council discussed the addition of new members, including: Joe Maroney, Kalispel Tribe Directory of Fishery and Water Resources (Alternate – Deane Osterman, Executive Director); Todd Murray, Washington State University Director of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Program Unit (Alternate – Rachel Bomberger, Plant Diagnostician); and Steven J. Burke, King County Noxious Weed Control Program (Alternate – Sasha Shaw, Communications Specialist).

Industry Panel Discussion: Shaun Seaman provided an update on behalf of the industry panel, which usually meets prior to each council meeting. As issues arise, Mr. Seaman's role is to facilitate discussion amongst the panel and share feedback at council meetings.

Alternate Member Discussion: Mr. Bush explained that for each new member, an alternate from the same organization was designated in order to monitor attendance and prepare for each meeting. He asked that current members notify him should they have alternates that they would like to designate.

September Meeting Location: The upcoming meeting will be held in Vancouver, WA. The Oregon Invasive Species Council will be sending a representative to attend the council's meeting. The specific meeting location in Vancouver is currently being determined.

Approval of March Minutes: No additions or corrections were requested for the minutes from the previous meeting in March 2016. Ms. Yund made a motion to approve the minutes; Mr. Willard seconded. Motion carried.

Item 12: Public Comment

Margaret Tudor, Pacific Education Institute, submitted written comment in which she recommended that the council develop stricter rules and scripted guidance for use by science classroom teachers handling live species.

Mr. Seaman proposed discussing the development of scripted rules prior to issuing a formal recommendation. Ms. Yund agreed, suggesting that the executive committee review the request and provide recommendation to the council about the potential for moving forward. Chair Tweit agreed and will bring recommendations to the September meeting.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Next meeting

September 22, 2016
Vancouver, WA

Minutes approved by:

Bill Tweit, Chair

Date